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R 031341Z SEP 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

Thursday, 03 September 2009, 13:41

S E C R E T BELGRADE 000841

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
EO 12958 DECL: 2019/09/03  
TAGS PGOV, PREL, EINT, MASS, RS, SR  
SUBJECT: SERBIA GRAPPLES WITH RUSSIA RELATIONS IN ADVANCE OF MEDVEDEV VISIT  
REF: (A) 08 BELGRADE 98, (B) 08 BELGRADE 1333  
CLASSIFIED BY: Jennifer Brush, Charge D'Affaires; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

Summary

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1. (C) As Serbia seeks to overcome mounting economic difficulties and move forward toward its primary goal of European Union membership, the c
- October Medvedev Visit
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2. (C) The recent announcement that Russian President Dmitriy Medvedev will visit Serbia in October to mark the 65th anniversary of the libera
3. (SBU) The primary deliverables for the Medvedev visit will reportedly be a \$1.4 billion Russian loan for budget support and infrastructure
- Political Relations: Balancing the Rhetoric
- 
4. (C) The dilemma that Tadic and his associates in the Presidency face in calibrating the tone and lavishness of the Medvedev visit is sympto
5. (C) Vuk Jeremic and his team at the Foreign Ministry take a different approach, however. They appear unwilling to fully commit themselves i
- Economic Relations: Skewed to Russia's Benefit
- 
6. (SBU) Russia is Serbia's second largest trading partner and eighth largest source of investment. Bilateral trade has grown significantly ir
7. (SBU) Since 2000, Russian firms have invested approximately \$1 billion in Serbia -- \$742 million in cash, and the rest in obligations for f
- Security Cooperation: All Talk, (Almost) No Action
- 
8. (SBU) As in the political realm, Serbia's security relations with Russia are more symbolic than concrete. Minister of Defense Sutanovac mee
9. (S) Russia has not been forthcoming on Serbia's requests for assistance in locating Hague indictee Ratko Mladic, presidential advisor Miki
- Comment: This Is Not a Competition
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10. (C) While the European Union is and should remain Serbia's ultimate goal, the country is also inextricably linked by energy dependency, mi